

IURC News Release

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For Immediate Release
June 14, 2006

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Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Reimbursed for a Portion of the Cost of Pipeline Safety Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has reimbursed the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC, Commission) for a job well done. The IURC's Pipeline Safety Division's performance was rated as "excellent" during the annual inspection of its practices, procedures and records by federal authorities. As a result, the Commission has received the maximum allocation available, more than \$220-thousand dollars, which is equal to nearly half the cost of the program.

In addition the Pipeline Safety Division applied for and received a \$36-thousand "One Call Grant." The money will be used to promote the prevention of damage to underground utility facilities such as pipelines, telephone cables, electric and water lines in Indiana.

The IURC's Pipeline Safety Division has authority to require compliance and enforce state and federal regulations, for the design, construction, testing, operation and maintenance of pipeline facilities in Indiana. This is accomplished through inspections, enforcement actions and training and accident investigations.

"The Commission applauds the commitment of the Pipeline Safety Division and its dedication to public safety" said Chairman David Lott Hardy.

Division Director, Annmarie Robertson and five Pipeline Safety Inspectors have authority over 92 pipeline operators and more than 72,000 miles of pipeline. Nearly 2-million homes and businesses in Indiana heat with natural gas.

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